

MINUTES

Mayor's Advisory Committee
Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Comprehensive Plan
1820 Roosevelt Boulevard—Large Training Room

October 20, 2004
7 p.m.

PRESENT: Nancy Nathanson, Chair; Dan Arkin, Dale Berg, Merge Bottge, Roxie Cuellar, Corey Dingman, Art Farley, Linda Swisher, Tim Whitley, members; Andrea Riner, Renee Grube, Sarah Medary, Parks and Open Space Division; Urban Forester Mark Synder; David Son-nichsen, guest.

I. Welcome

Ms. Nathanson called the meeting of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Comprehensive Plan to order. She welcomed those present.

II. Public Comment

Lloyd Helickson, Churchill Area Neighbors Parks Liaison, questioned why Videra Park was not given a higher priority in the Willow Creek Planning District. It was given a priority of 2. He said that the Churchill area needed more neighborhood parks, and pointed out that Skyview Park was the only recently constructed park in the area. He noted the neighborhood resistance to development of Hawkins Heights Park, which was given a higher priority in the project list than Videra Park as it was assigned a priority of #1. He asked that both parks be given a priority of #1.

Responding to a question from Ms. Cuellar regarding the nature of the opposition to the development of Hawkins Heights Park, Mr. Hollickson indicated that neighbors adjacent to the property had objected. He said that sentiment may have changed over time.

Mr. Arkin arrived.

III. Approval of Minutes

Referring to the minutes of May 7, Ms. Swisher asked that the reference in paragraph 6 on page 2 to "dogless parks" be changed to "dog-free parks." Referring to the minutes of September 10, she noted that Kathryn Mogstad's name was misspelled in the "present" section. She referred to page 4 of the same set of minutes and suggested that the last bulleted item on the page be changed to "Combined Senior and Youth Programs." There was no objection to Ms. Swisher's changes.

Ms. Swisher, seconded by Mr. Arkin, moved to accept the minutes of May 7, 2003, June 4, 2004, and September 10, 2004, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Committee Comments on Capital Improvement Projects

Prior to considering the project list, members discussed their concerns about the accelerated committee schedule. Several members expressed a preference for returning to the old schedule as they believed the process was moving too fast and they were concerned about the quality of the work that would result. Others expressed an interest in discussing the timing of possible bond measures and other approaches to service delivery, such as the formation of a special district or creating a new City parks department.

Ms. Nathanson said the committee was appointed by outgoing Mayor James Torrey, and she had been advised by City staff that the committee was limited by the fact the mayor was leaving office. The mayor wished to see the results of the committee's work before he left office. She suggested that the committee's work could be divided into two parts, one part that was a visioning/general planning processes, and one part that was more focused on implementation, including discussion of budgets, bonding opportunities, and other service approaches, such as special districts. She said that could be done by a new committee appointed by incoming mayor Kitty Piercy or by a department advisory committee. She said the current committee could forward ideas to the Budget Committee as well. There were several possible approaches. Ms. Nathanson said that the committee would work out the details of the projects, but the specific election dates and dollar amounts were always envisioned as part of a future phase.

Ms. Riner said that staff had developed a public involvement process that involved many, many people and the committee interpreted that input. She thought the high level of input would speak volumes to the committee's recommendation. She thought the committee would have a good product to forward to the City Council, but many decision points lay ahead.

Ms. Cuellar reminded the committee that the City's Public Works Rates Advisory Committee was awaiting the outcome of the committee's work so that it could begin the process of developing the methodology for the parks systems development charge. She said there was a difference between a vision and a capital improvement program and she did not want the rates setting committee to receive an open-ended vision from the committee.

Mr. Johnson suggested the possibility the committee could be reappointed by the new mayor and continue its work.

Ms. Riner previewed the next two meeting agendas to give the committee a sense of future discussions, noting that the committee would talk about operation and maintenance impacts as a result of the draft plan in November; the following meeting would touch on financing methods. Ms. Grube encouraged the committee to complete its review of the project list, adding that the committee would still have time to revisit its strategies.

Ms. Nathanson said that she had begun to discuss her concerns about the committee timeline with the manager over the summer. There were staff resource issues that precluded speeding up the committee's work and some meetings were canceled because of resource constraints. She committed to further consultation with the City Manager and Mayor Torrey regarding the future status of the committee.

The committee agreed to review the project list. Ms. McIntyre captured the committee's remarks on flip charts.

At the request of Ms. Nathanson, Ms. Riner briefly described how the list was put together, noting its origin in various City planning documents, the committee's work, community design forums, and the

workshop at Petersen Barn. Some projects were from the existing City Capital Improvement Program and some were from the Rivers to Ridges metropolitan parks vision. Many staff assessed the list. Ms. Riner said that acquisition was the major focus of the list, with preservation of existing infrastructure the next priority. Development of existing park land tended to be a lower priority. Those projects given a #3 ranking were generally good ideas that needed more development and/or required partnership with other agencies.

Ms. Riner called the committee's attention to a map showing the various proposed projects to demonstrate their distribution throughout the community.

Mr. Farley requested a staff analysis of how far the proposed list went toward satisfying the differing national standard for each parks category. Ms. Riner indicated she would follow-up.

Changes to Strategies

Review strategies and add if necessary:

- Work with other City agencies to preserve street trees that provide significant neighborhood character, e.g., the River Road area.
- Ensure that park master plans are in place to allow the City to act quickly if unanticipated funding becomes available.
- Consider transportation requirements when planning and designing parks and recreation facilities, and coordinate transportation improvements with other City divisions and other agencies, such as ODOT, Lane County, LTD.
- Work with Lane County to ensure continued recreation use of the Fairgrounds.
- Ensure that signage is accessible to people with disabilities and from diverse cultures, as required and appropriate.
- Consider the needs of tourists as well as supporting a vibrant nightlife when planning for Central City.
- Strive to implement park master plans as soon as possible following their development.

Additions to Non-capital Costs

- Conduct a park visioning study of Union Pacific area.
- Conduct a sidewalk/pedestrian access study.
- Separate and include in non-capital: Implement Willamette Natural Area management plan.
- Conduct a study to determine the best means of promoting non-motorized water-related recreation in the Willamette River, such as river surfing, kayaking, canoeing, and water parks.

General

- It would be good to know the anticipated funding for priority 1
- Develop an analysis of how well the CIP meets the goals of the Park and Open Space Analysis – Ms. Riner to do
- Make a citywide category to include all improvements that have a citywide benefit, including these specific suggestions:

Add: Acquire additional Amazon Headwaters property

Change some primary Ridgeline trails in Willow Creek to 1 priority.

Add: Develop a Vellodrome – priority 3

Move Alton Baker park to City-wide; separate Implement the Willamette Natural Area Management plan and add to non-capital.

- Review actions regarding “implementing park master plans;” change to “complete XXX park master plan” where appropriate.
- List needed dog parks in each planning area.
- Add disc golf in each planning area and make it a priority number 1 in at least one area.

Bethel/Danebo

New Parks and Open Space

Change Golden Gardens to: Develop Golden Gardens and acquired property as metropolitan park with natural components, including trails.

Add Linear Park along Roosevelt drainage ditch.

New Recreation Facilities

Expand Peterson Barn Community Center: change to 1 priority.

Develop a running trail to serve the Bethel area: change to 1 priority.

Improve Existing Facilities

Complete Petersen Barn Park: change to 1 priority.

Central

New Parks and Open Space

Acquire and/or trade West University Park for new site: change to 1 priority.

New Recreation Facilities

Provide children's play area in downtown area: change to 1 priority.

Access Improvements

Delete: Provide 2nd connection at Alton Baker Park to connect to courthouse neighborhood

South Eugene

New Recreation Facilities

Provide full service South Eugene community center: change to Provide full service South Eugene community center by renovating/upgrading Amazon Community Center.

Improve Existing Facilities

Weatherize Amazon Pool for year round use: change to 1 priority.

Enhance Crest Heights prairie habitat: change to 1 priority.

Develop parking and access to Laurelwood "Back 9" and Ribbon Trail south end: change to 1 priority.

Implement Amazon Park Master Plan: change to Complete Amazon Park master plan.

Upgrade Washburn Park: move up in priority – 1 or 2?

Upgrade Fairmont Park – move up in priority – 1 or 2?

River Road

New Parks and Open Space

Add: Acquire Community Park - number 1 priority

Implement Rasor Park Master Plan: change to Complete Rasor Park Master Plan.

Acquire additional river frontage, including property to the north: change to 1 priority.

Add: Acquire an agricultural themed park

Willow Creek

New Parks and Open Space

Add: Develop a neighborhood park in WC5 - 1 priority.

Add: Develop Videra Park - 2 priority.

Willakenzie

New Parks and Open Space

Add: Acquire a neighborhood park in or near W4 (i.e., Alexander Loop and Whilpelton) – priority 1 or 2???

Upgrade Existing Facilities

Ms. Grube noted that the cost for Cuthbert should be changed from \$300,000 to \$3,000,000

V. Close

Ms. Nathanson noted that the next committee meeting was scheduled for November 10 at the Campbell Center. The starting time was tentatively scheduled for 7 p.m. Ms. Bottge noted that she would be unable to attend the November meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)